

Message Text

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42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CU-02 L-03 H-02

SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

IOE-00 /063 W

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O R 041522Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4846

INFO AMEMBASSYPARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, UNESCO, IS, BE

SUBJECT: ISRAEL ASKS BELGIUM NOT TO INTRODUCE PRO-ISRAEL UNESCO
RESOLUTION

REF: A. BRUSSELS 7798 B. STATE 209580

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S BARON DE SELYS TOLD US SEPTEMBER 4 THAT SENIOR
ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIAL CALLED ON HIM AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 3 AND
REQUESTED THAT BELGIUM NOT REPEAT NOT INTRODUCE ANY RESOLUTION AT
UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD SEEKING INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN UNESCO'S
EUROPEAN GROUP. DE SELYS SUMMARIZED ISRAELI ARGUMENT AS FOLLOWS:

A. ANY SUCH RESOLUTION WOULD DEMONSTRATE "GOOD INTENTIONS"
OF SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS BUT WOULD BE OTHERWISE "MEANINGLESS"
SINCE SUCH EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO
IMPACT ON 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, WHICH IS PLENARY BODY AND CAN
DO ANYTHING IT WISHES.

B. AN EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL, HOWEVER, WOULD BE
HAILED IN UNITED STATES AND PRESENTED TO U.S. CONGRESS AS
EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS OR EVEN AS "SOLUTION" TO ISRAEL EXCLUSION
PROBLEM.

C. ON THAT BASIS, CONGRESS (AND PERHAPS FRENCH AND SWISS
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LEGISLATURES ALSO) MIGHT PREMATURELY RESCIND EXISTING BANS ON

UNESCO FUNDING BEFORE 1976 GENERAL CONFERENCE EVEN MEETS AND
FACES ISRAELI ISSUE.

D. IF RESOLUTION RELATING TO ISRAEL WERE INTRODUCED ANYWAY
AT EXECUTIVE BOARD, ISRAEL WOULD EXPECT HER FRIENDS TO SUPPORT
IT.

2. DE SELYS SAID HE DISCUSSED ABOVE ISRAELI DEMARCHE WITH MFA
POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 3 BEFORE DAVIGNON
LEFT FOR EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN ROME. DE SELYS
STATED THAT DAVIGNON WOULD SEEK TO CONSULT WITH EC-9 COLLEAGUES
IN ROME ON ISRAEL/UNESCO ISSUE. DE SELYS SAID THAT HE AND
DAVIGNON WOULD TALK ON TELEPHONE SEPTEMBER 8, AFTER WHICH TIME
DE SELYS SAID HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL US DEFINITELY WHETHER
BELGIUM WILL INTRODUCE RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN
EUROPEAN GROUP (REF. A).

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, DE SELYS SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD
ASKED THAT BELGIUM NOT REPEAT NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY TO UNESCO
DIRECTOR GENERAL M'DOW'S REQUEST FOR BELGIAN INTEREST-FREE
LOAN TO UNESCO TO ALLEVIATE CURRENT FINANCIAL PINCH. DE SELYS
SAID THAT BELGIUM AND OTHER EC-9 MEMBERS WOULD SAY NO TO
M'DOW REQUEST BUT PROBLEM WAS HOW TO SAY NO GRACEFULLY.

4. DE SELYS SAID A REPORT IS CURCULATING THAT ARABS ARE
CONTEMPLATING A \$27 MILLION LOAN TO UNESCO. HE SAID BELGIANS
ARE CONCERNED, IF THIS COMES TO PASS, OVER RESULTING INCREASED
ARAB INFLUENCE IN THE AGENCY.

5. COMMENT: ISRAELIS OBVIOUSLY HAVE NO WISH TO SEE UNESCO'S
FINANCIAL SUFFERING EASED UNTIL THE "RESTRICTED" SIGN IS
ACTUALLY TAKEN OFF THE AGENCY'S DOOR. WHETHER OR NOT WE
MIGHT EVENTUALLY BRING ISRAEL AROUND TO SEE THE WISDOM OF OUR
WAYS, CHANCES OF BELGIUM TAKING THE INITIATIVE ON THE PROPOSED
EXBOARD RESOLUTION ARE NOT GOOD. RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, POLICIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE07858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750305-1216
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750981/aaaacttk.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRUSSELS 7798, 75 STATE 209580
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAEL ASKS BELGIUM NOT TO INTRODUCE PRO-ISRAEL UNESCO RESOLUTION
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, IS, BE, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006